

Agency Overview

The mission of the Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation (IDPR) is “To improve the quality of life in Idaho through outdoor recreation and resource stewardship.” To accomplish that mission, IDPR operates 30 state parks classified by primary use as recreational, historic or natural. The agency manages registration programs for snowmobiles, boats and off-highway vehicles, and distributes funds from registrations and other sources to communities and other agencies statewide to develop and maintain trails, facilities and programs for the people who use those vehicles. The agency also manages a series of outdoor recreation grant programs that provide facilities and services to a wide variety of recreationists and the local governmental and nongovernmental organizations that serve them.

The Idaho Park and Recreation Board provides citizen oversight for the agency. Board members are appointed by the governor to six-year terms. No more than three members can be from a single party. Each member represents one of six regions of the state. The Board appoints and supervises the agency director. Robert L. Meinen was appointed as director in 2003, after serving in similar posts in Oregon, Kansas and Missouri, as well as a previous term as IDPR director in the mid-80s.

The agency has two divisions, Administration and Operations. The Division of Administration manages support functions such as fiscal, information technology, registrations, facility development, planning, grants, purchasing, personnel and public information. The Operations Division manages state parks, the state trails program, and the state boating program. IDPR’s headquarters office is located in Boise, with three regional service centers located in Boise, Coeur d’Alene and Idaho Falls. Offices are also located in or near 20 state parks. IDPR is currently authorized 158.25 FTPs. In addition, the agency employs about 300 seasonals annually during peak visitation periods.

Core Functions/Idaho Code

Operations Division

Park Operations -To formulate and put into execution a long range, comprehensive plan and program for the acquisition or leasing, planning, protection, operation, maintenance, development and wise use of areas of scenic beauty, recreational utility, historic, archaeological or scientific interest, to the end that the health, happiness, recreational opportunities and wholesome enjoyment of life of the people may be further encouraged. Idaho Code, Title 67, Chapter 42

Boating Program – To improve boating safety, to foster the greater development, use and enjoyment of the waters of this state by watercraft and to adopt certain standards for the safe operation and equipment of vessels. Idaho Code, Title 67, Chapter 70

Trails Program – The designation and establishment and maintenance of trails for motorized and nonmotorized users. Title 67, Chapter 42; Idaho Code, Title 67, Chapter 71

Administration Division

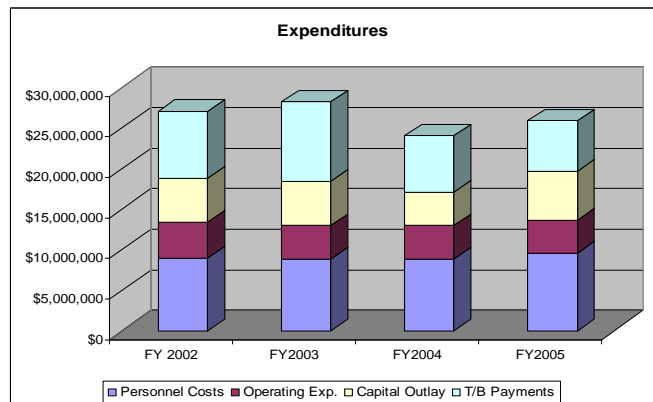
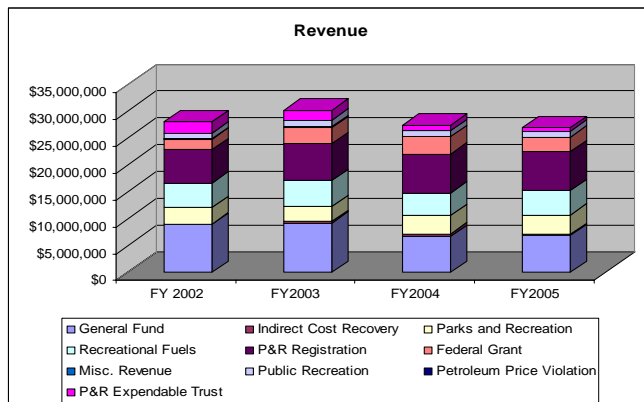
Registration Program – Registration of off-highway vehicles, boats, snowmobiles and sale of Park n’ Ski cross country skiing permits. Idaho Code, Title 67, Chapters 70 and 71

Recreation Grants Program – Through the administration of grants to acquire, purchase, improve, repair, maintain, furnish, and equip facilities for outdoor recreation. Idaho Code, Title 67, Chapter 71; Idaho Code, Title 63, Chapter 24; Idaho Code, Title 57, Chapter 15; Idaho Code, Title 57, Chapter 19; Idaho Code, Title 49, Chapter 44; Idaho Code, Title 67, Chapter 15; Idaho Code, Title 67, Chapter 42; Idaho Code, Title 49, Chapter 41; Idaho Code, Title 67, Chapter 70

Park Development - To evaluate potential park sites; to conduct master planning for individual parks; to administer land acquisitions; to provide design, engineering, and construction supervision of all park capital improvements and major facilities maintenance; and to furnish technical assistance for the purpose of providing a high quality state park system. Title 67, Chapter 71; Title 63, Chapter 24; Idaho Code, Title 57, Chapter 18

Revenue and Expenditures

Revenue	FY 2002	FY 2003	FY 2004	FY 2005
General Fund	\$8,833,700	\$9,172,800	\$6,639,800	\$6,793,700
Indirect Cost Recovery	\$120,400	\$279,600	\$455,900	\$270,500
Parks and Recreation	\$3,122,800	\$2,764,000	\$3,406,700	\$3,579,700
Recreational Fuels	\$4,523,200	\$4,805,500	\$4,230,700	\$4,548,500
P&R Registration	\$6,207,300	\$6,829,900	\$7,203,700	\$7,234,600
Federal Grant	\$1,961,900	\$3,065,100	\$3,243,400	\$2,655,600
Misc. Revenue	\$57,200	\$119,000	\$19,300	\$52,900
Public Recreation	\$1,005,200	\$1,252,100	\$1,057,200	\$1,067,000
Petroleum Price Violation	\$13,000	\$5,500	\$2,200	\$900
P&R Expendable Trust	\$2,081,600	\$1,813,900	\$1,076,700	\$687,200
Total	\$27,926,300	\$30,107,400	\$27,335,600	\$26,890,600
Expenditure	FY 2002	FY 2003	FY 2004	FY 2005
Personnel Costs	\$8,941,500	\$8,880,900	\$8,895,500	\$9,552,600
Operating Expenditures	\$4,484,100	\$4,084,400	\$4,062,800	\$4,085,100
Capital Outlay	\$5,418,800	\$5,489,900	\$4,137,300	\$6,005,400
Trustee/Benefit Payments	\$8,203,400	\$9,731,700	\$6,935,500	\$6,215,900
Total	\$27,047,800	\$28,186,900	\$24,031,100	\$25,859,000



Profile of Cases Managed and/or Key Services Provided

Cases Managed and/or Key Services Provided	FY 2002	FY 2003	FY 2004	FY 2005
Snowmobile Registrations ¹	52,526	47,850	53,709	48,067
Motorbike/ATV Registrations ¹	70,760	81,396	91,037	90,941
Boat Registrations ¹	81,379	80,456	81,429	80,479
Day Use Visits ²	2,186,071	2,097,566	2,005,245	2,064,909
Campsite Nights Booked ³	NA	NA	74,157	93,482
Outdoor Rec. Grant Dollars Distributed	\$6,322,945	\$7,436,057	\$6,151,201	\$6,393,241

¹ Recreational vehicle registrations are seasonal. Time frames vary by activity. 2005 figures are as of November 1 and, with the exception of snowmobiles, are likely to increase somewhat before the season is complete.

² Day use visits are an estimation based on random physical counts and the use of mechanical counters. Figures are for calendar years. 2005 figures are January through August.

³ Campsite Nights Booked is a developing measure that has only become available with the advent of electronic reservations. Because of phased initiation of the service, some sites are not yet reporting and only limited information is available. The 2004 figure is for May 1 through September 30. The 2005 figure is for Memorial Day through Labor Day. Future reports will include full calendar year, system-wide totals.

Performance Highlights

Education

Agency research has shown a strong desire on the part of Idahoans for increased emphasis on natural resource and recreation safety education. In 2005 IDPR added an off highway vehicle education coordinator and a regional boating safety educator to our staff, which already included two federally funded boating safety education positions and an interpretive coordinator.

Changing Needs—New Demands

In January, 2006, the agency will submit Idaho's Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation and Tourism Plan (SCORTP) for approval by the National Park Service. This five-year plan identifies outdoor recreation needs of Idaho citizens at the city, county, state and federal levels, and presents goals and objectives designed to fill those needs. To determine needs, comprehensive planning staff held public meetings in each of Idaho's 44 counties, conducted eight outdoor recreation provider focus group sessions for city, county, school district and federal outdoor recreation providers, and conducted a statewide citizen survey. These efforts went into the development of the statewide multi-agency plan, as well as IDPR's own strategic plan.

One of the most significant issues identified during the SCORTP process is the speed at which new development is precluding options for open space, parks and connecting pathways in Idaho communities all across the state. IDPR is working with community leaders to develop a process to identify possible solutions to this growth induced phenomena.

In response to increasing demands for new camping opportunities, the agency began construction of a new group RV camp at Ponderosa State Park and a new campground at Farragut State Park. At Bear Lake State Park the agency worked with Bear Lake County to separate park traffic from through traffic at North Beach. The project provides more parking and safer access for visitors at the popular North Beach unit, and allows those not visiting the park to pass through without any slowdown at the fee station. Glade Creek, the site of Lewis and Clark's first camp in Idaho, received interpretive display updates in preparation for the bicentennial of the Corps of Discovery.

While camping can still be a spontaneous activity, constraints on people's time make it necessary to offer them the ability to plan their trips. IDPR is implementing an improved reservation system in January to give customers the opportunity to make reservations through a vendor-operated Boise call center as well as on the Internet.

In order to keep abreast of changing needs, the agency conducts park master planning processes in at least two parks each year, offering multiple opportunities for public input. Plans for Castle Rocks and Thousand Springs state parks will be completed in January, 2006.

Recognizing that preventive maintenance saves money in the long term, IDPR is conducting a detailed facility inventory that will provide leaders with reliable infrastructure information with which to make more informed decisions.

As the nation's demographics change, many institutions and programs will be challenged by an aging population. IDPR instituted a pilot senior discount program at select parks in 2005 to determine how best to provide increased opportunities without negatively impacting the agency's budget.

On the Horizon

Ponderosa State Park has hosted many top national and international cross-country ski events in recent years. The park has been selected to host the World Masters cross-country skiing competition in 2008. The event takes place every two years, always on a different continent. Also in 2008, Heyburn State Park celebrates its centennial.

For More Information Contact

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